

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, November 18, 2010

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

Please note the minutes are a brief summary and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.

Larry Gasco Chairman, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Larry Gasco

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call – Canetana Hurd
Attendance recorded as follows:
Absent Excused: Carlos Sosa, Hayward McNeill, Greg Thompson, Arnold Gilberg, Barry Perrou, Ilean Rabens, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco
ACTION TAKEN – October 28, 2010 minutes was unanimously approved. Motion-Wolff/Second-Sofro

II. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco

- **Executive Committee Meeting Report** – Delores Huffman reported on the November 4, 2010 meeting:
 1. December offsite meeting will be held December 16 at Vista Del Mar. Agenda will include presentation, discussion, consumer perspective, and facility tour.
 2. Joint meeting with CCF (Commission on Children and Family) will be held January 27, 2011.
 3. Departmental Report – Dr. Southard discussed; 1) the impact on DMH due to AB 3632 litigation, 2) 1115 Waiver approval and what's next for DMH, 3) Legislative Report brought by Susan Rajlal.
- **MHC/SAAC Chairs Meeting** – The group met November 9 and discussed; 1) Let's Erase Stigma program involvement, 2) legislation brunch event, 3) Service Area 7 school based programs, and 4) lack of consumer participation. Pam Inaba, Chair of the Los Angeles County Client Coalition proposed a plan requesting the Commission support a fundraiser to help finance coalition events.
- **Chair's Comments** – Mr. Gasco spoke on attending the American Indian Heritage Awards sponsored by KCET. Elton Naswood, Navajo-Arizona is Program Coordinator for the Red Circle Project at AIDS Project Los Angeles. Mr. Naswood was among the honorees recognized for exemplary leadership, dedication, and contributions to the local community in art, language, social services, and business and education.
- **ACTION ITEMS**
 1. Request for staff – Executive Director requested Commissioner submit a list of work projects/ideas to develop work projects

and corresponding budgets. The list will assist in developing staff specifications to complete projects for fiscal year 2010/11.

2. Agenda for joint meeting – Commissioners met with CCF to discuss the agenda for the joint meeting. Agenda recommendations made were; 1) kids in Probation Camps, 2) Roll out awards under MHSA PEI, 3) invite CCF to attend MHC Executive Committee meeting.

III. DMH Report – Dr. Robin Kay, Chief Deputy Director, Mental Health

Budget – The departmental budget is on track; the State budget impact remains unknown. DMH continues to monitor realignment from sales tax and vehicle license fee revenue. DMH has arranged with an educational funding source to continue operating payments of AB 3236 claims. The Department is looking at ways to continue its one-time funding arrangement to assist contract agencies affected by the economic downturn. DMH will use the CCS and PEI match to restructure a number of outpatient programs for the 1115 Waiver coverage.

Departmental – Connections for Life board letter was submitted for approval. Capital project funding is available to conduct an analysis on relocating DMH headquarters to Downey. The department will develop a relocation proposal to submit to the board in spring 2011. The analysis will explore co-located space for client coalitions, community and other special interest groups for meetings and conferences, specifically in the West Valley area.

Health Care Reform – The 1115 Waiver was approved. DMH will begin meeting with Department of Health Services to develop a standard process to deliver services.

IV. Special Presentation – DMH Office of the Public Guardian

Connie Draxler, Deputy Director,

Ms. Draxler introduced herself and gave a brief history of her journey to Los Angeles County from Orange County. DMH is the designated conservator for Los Angeles County and handles all LPS referrals. LPS (Lanterman, Petris, and Short Act – 1970) gives DMH the legal authority to make certain decisions for a seriously mentally ill person who is unable to take care of him/herself. There are two referral sources, designated hospitals/facilities, and mental health and criminal courts.

The Public Guardian has 150 staff of which 100 are deputized to handle LPS and Probate cases. A deputy's case load is approximately 85-95. Cases are referred from Mental Health Courts 95, 95A, 95B - involve court cases already established, and Criminal Court Penal codes, 1370, 1026, 2972 - offers alternatives to jail time.

- Penal Code 1370 – Incompetent to stand trial. Individual unable to understand the nature of the proceedings or rationally assist the counsel in defense. Court ordered treatment at State hospital and the maximum commitment is 3 years. Ongoing evaluations performed by the State for progress toward competency. If found incompetent, inmate is returned to Court 95 under LPS conservatorship.
- Penal 1026 – Not guilty by Reason of Insanity. Individual arrested, charged and tried, deemed inpatient or outpatient (inpatient-State Hospital), commitment date match terms of imprisonment.
- Penal Code 2972 – Mentally Disordered Offender. Mental illness is the determinate for violence or force, cause of crime, history of 90+ days in treatment, and represents significant danger to others.

The office has seen an increase in 1370 referrals over the past several years because clients are being shifted to the responsibility of LA County before the 3 year commitment expires. Penal Code 1026 and 2972 client referrals have increased due to placement challenges and restricted use of Patton State hospital. Many clients cannot be restored to competency. To address the issue DMH is developing collaboration with the Department of Justice to address imminent discharges. The final report will be available on the website by July 2011.

What's New - Staff conducts orientation meetings for county management and executives on information and updates pertaining to LPS and Probate policies. The office is collaborating with NAMI to develop a conservatorship mentoring program.

V. Commissioners' Reports

Jerry Lubin – Mr. Lubin attended the first restructured System Leadership Team (SLT) meeting. The restructure is a continuation of some old and some new. Dr. Shaner gave a presentation on the MHSA Innovation Plan.

Mr. Lubin attended the Department's New Employee Orientation with Terry Lewis. He spoke to the new employees about MHSA funding has been the main fiscal resource for DMH and being able to hire additional staff.

Mr. Lubin attended the monthly STATS meeting. The meetings have become a very positive monitoring process to nurture transparency in production levels.

Frank Baron – Mr. Baron taught a NAMI Peer to Peer class at Edelman Mental Health on "How not to Relapse."

Delores Huffman – Reported on the meeting with Deputy Kathleen Austria that including Larry Gasco, Hayward McNeill, and Terry Lewis. Issues discussed were:

- Collaborative effort to make service organizations for Skid Row and identify actual number of homeless people in the area.

- Health care reform bill
- Several opportunities to volunteer in the second district
- Establish quarterly meetings with Commission appointees on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Huffman submitted the following housing report for the month of November 2010:

MHSA Housing Program

Twenty-nine projects are actively participating in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program at various stages of development. The status of each project as of November 17, 2010 is shown below:

Developing Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment Period

- Avalon II Family Apartments

Preparing Technical Submission

- Swarthy World Society Apartments

Invitation to Submit Full Application

- Parker Hotel
- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- New Genesis Apartments
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – Cedar Springs Apartments

Application Submitted to the State Pending Approval

- Figueroa Apartments
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Parkview on the Park Apartments

Approved for Funding by the State

- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Epworth Apartments
- Osborne Place Apartments
- 28th St. YMCA Residences
- Menlo Family Housing
- PWC Family Housing
- NoHo Senior Villas
- KIWA Apartments
- Willis Avenue Apartments

Approved for Funding and Initiated Construction

- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Glenoaks Gardens
- Parkview on the Park Apartments *
- New Genesis Apartments *
- Horizon Apartments

Open for Occupancy

- Daniel's Village
- Charles Cobb Apartments

* Projects under construction awaiting final approval

Housing Trust Fund Program

As of July 19 2010, the Department added four new housing projects bringing a total of 16 Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Program awardees. 10 projects are in operation one of which is both a shared housing and scattered site project. Through the HTF Program, supportive services are being provided to approximately 235 tenants residing in permanent supportive housing. The services being provided assists formerly homeless individuals and their families maintain their housing and pursue their recovery goals. The project sponsor for the Bonnie Brae Apartments are completing the final requirements necessary to initiate the leasing process for this senior project located in Service Area 4. Construction has begun for Glenoaks Gardens, the Los Angeles Family Housing project located in Service Area 2. Project Home, located in the downtown area of Service 4, is scheduled to open in December 2010. Downtown Women Center will be organizing a community celebration and opening the doors to their new "Project Home" building in December 10, 2010. The remaining projects, Cedar Springs, Nehemiah Courts, and Mini Twelve Step are new construction slated to begin in the fall of 2011.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

Housing Assistance Program

The Department provides financial resources for clients moving into housing from homelessness by paying the security deposit and purchasing the basic essentials to furnish their apartment. In addition, financial resources are available to pay one month's rent in arrears to prevent eviction and ongoing rental assistance for qualified clients. The funding sources for the Housing Assistance Program include Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness and MHSA. During the

period July 1, 2010 through November 17, 2010, the Department assisted the following numbers of clients with securing permanent housing:

- 67 clients and/or their families with the security deposit at the time of move-in;
- 130 clients and/or their families with purchasing household goods;
- 4 clients with eviction prevention; and
- 34 clients with ongoing rental assistance.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program

Phase 28 of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) was completed in October 31st 2010. The Department has submitted another proposal for the EFSP - Phase 29 grant cycle beginning November 1, 2010 through October 31, 2011. The Department has requested a total of \$174,000 in the three designated categories: Food (\$74,000), Motel/Hotel voucher (\$60,000) and Rental Assistance (\$40,000). These resources will be made available countywide through our directly-operated clinics within the 8 service areas. The Department has been selected to submit

VI. Community and SAAC Reports -

LACCC – Pam Inaba, Chair, Los Angeles County Client Coalition

Ms. Inaba gave a progress report on the Client's Ball and silent auction effort.

SAAC reports – None

VII. Public Comments –

- **Sawako Nitao** – Announced an event about a support group.
- **Zed Null** – SSI to implement "standard testing" as an evaluation tool for individuals in the process of applying for SSI benefits; it's under the mental health disabilities.

VIII. Meeting adjourned - NEXT MEETING LOCATION

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Noon – 2:30 pm

Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services

Ruth Shuken Auditorium

3200 Motor Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90034

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Submitted by Canetana Hurd